Schemes for NRI Deposits

*268. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount outstanding under various deposits scheme since 1997;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to float some more scheme for NRI deposits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of Non- resident deposits for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme	Deposit balances as at end of March		
	1997	1998	1999
NRE	16776	22495	25921
NRNR	19074	24199	27364
FCNR(B) (US$Mn)	7890	8532	8055

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

National Culture Fund

*269. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National Culture Fund launched by the Ministry of Culture some time ago;

(b) how far it has met the purpose for which it was set up; and

(c) the details of specific assistance provided to the needy artists, writers and others since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In recent months the National Culture Fund has acquired momentum. MOUs have